IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification at paragraphs [0043], [0097] and [0099] as follows:

[0043] FIGS. 2a-~~k~~ l show top (FIG. 2a), side (FIG. 2b), perspective (FIG. 2c), disassembly (FIG. 2d-j), and side cutaway (FIG. 2k-l) views of a static trial holder of the present invention.

[0097] This biasing of the sleeve 206 toward positions that will either unlock or lock the holding enclosure 210 is effected by the inclusion of at least one spaced recess 228 on the outer surface of the extension 204, and at least one radial bore 230 through the wall of the sleeve 206 (preferably through the rotation control knob 219 as shown), which bores 230 each have secured therein a spring plunger 232~~(not shown)~~ (it should be understood that functionally equivalent devices can also be used in place of a spring plunger). Preferably, each recess 228 is associated with a respective cooperating bore 230 and spring plunger 232. When a given bore 230 (and spring plunger) is aligned with its associated recess 228, the sleeve 206 is in a position at which the holding enclosure 210 is either unlocked or locked. Each of the spring plungers 232 is biased radially inwardly from the inner surface of the sleeve 206, and as such presses against the outer surface of the extension 204 as the sleeve 206 is being rotated. Thus, when a recess ~~230~~228 is presented to the spring plunger 232, it plunges into the recess ~~230~~228, stopping the rotation of the sleeve 206. In order to restart (or continue) rotation of the sleeve 206, the bias of the spring plunger 232 must be overcome when the restarting (or continuing) rotational force is applied. In order to lower the overcoming force required to restart or continue the rotation,

the end of the spring plunger 232 is preferably convexly curvate, and the recess is concavely curvate. Preferably, four recesses 228 and bores 230 (and spring plungers) are provided, each pair representing one of four quarter-turn rotated positions of the sleeve 206. At each position of the sleeve 206, all four plungers 232 plunge into the recesses 228, securing the sleeve 206 at that position until a sufficient force is applied to overcome their plunging bias.

[0099] Once the operator is ready to lock the holding enclosure 210, while still gripping the handle 202 of the static trial holder 200, he rotates the rotation control knob 219 either clockwise or counterclockwise to move the sleeve 206 to the next quarter-turn position. If the rotation control knob 219 is rotated with enough force to cause the spring plungers 232 in the bores 230 to back out of the recesses 228, the sleeve 206 will rotate as desired. Once the sleeve 206 has reached the next quarter-turn position, the spring plungers 232 will find the recesses 228 associated with that position, and plunge into the recesses 228 to snap the sleeve 206 into the proper position. As the sleeve 206 rotates, the sides of the sleeve's bore's inner surface bear against the curved outer surfaces of the prongs 214a-b to push the prongs 214a-b together so that they are accommodated by the depth 222 of the bore 218. When the prongs 214a-b are pressed against one another and held in that closed position by the maintenance of the sleeve 206 in the new position (maintained by the spring plungers 232 in the recesses 228), the semicircular extents 216a-b move toward one another and are correspondingly maintained together about the cylindrical trunk 106. When the prongs 214a-b are held in this manner, the cylindrical trunk 106 cannot be removed through the mouth 213 of the now-tighter (e.g., locked) holding enclosure

210 without the application of forces preferably greater than will be encountered when inserting and removing the static trial 100 from the intervertebral space during the surgical procedures. Once the static trial 100 has been inserted and removed from the intervertebral space (or the distraction spacer has been inserted and removed from the intervertebral space after being used to distract the space), the operator can lock the holding enclosure 210 by rotating the sleeve 206 another quarter turn (in either the clockwise or the counterclockwise direction). Again, if the rotation control knob 219 is rotated with enough force to cause the spring plungers 232 to back out of the recesses 228, the sleeve 206 will rotate as desired. Once the sleeve 206 has reached the next quarter-turn position, the spring plungers 232 will find the recesses 228 associated with that position, and plunge into the recesses 228 to snap the sleeve 206 into the proper position. As the sleeve 206 rotates, the sides of the sleeve's bore's inner surface move away from the curved outer surfaces of the prongs 214a-b and allow the prongs 214a-b to separate (under their own bias toward the neutral position) as they are accommodated by the width 220 of the bore 218. When the prongs 214a-b are separated and allowed to remain in that position by the maintenance of the sleeve 206 in the new position (maintained by the spring plungers 232 in the recesses 228), the semicircular extents 216a-b are separated from one another and hold the cylindrical trunk 106 against falling or slipping out. That is, the cylindrical trunk 106 can be removed by the operator if the operator applies a sufficient force to widen the mouth 213 of the holding enclosure 210 enough to let the cylindrical trunk 106 pass through the mouth 213. Once the static trial 100 (or distraction spacer) is removed, another one can be inserted and manipulated if required.